

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

April 7, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

In addition to my investment missions to Japan and Germany, I've continued to crisscross the country and work the phones in order to attract new jobs to Michigan. And our relentless pursuit of jobs is paying off, as we continue to go anywhere and do anything to grow our economy.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with representatives from several companies during the Society of Automotive Engineers conference in Detroit.

This is an international conference and it brings together the top minds and businesses in high-tech auto manufacturing – and it was a great opportunity for me to pitch business leaders from around the world on why Michigan is the best place to expand and create jobs.

Just a few days ago, in fact, Behr Industries announced that it will expand its headquarters in Troy, paving the way for dozens of new jobs and expanded operations in Michigan. Behr is one of the many automotive companies that I met with in Germany a little over a year ago – and this is a great example of why personal contact with CEOs and business leaders can go a long way.

That's why I'm willing to go any distance to make those contacts. And in a few days, I'll be on the road again – this time to Chicago – to speak with some of the world's leading biosciences companies.

This exciting new industry has the potential for explosive growth in Michigan, and I plan to meet with several companies to convince them to expand their operations in Michigan, and also to describe the tools and incentives that we've made available to employers who decide to move jobs to our communities.

One of the most important tools, for example, in our toolkit is the \$2 billion 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund. We created this fund to diversify our economy – it's the biggest diversification effort that any state is undertaking. We're going to diversify our economy in key industries like life sciences, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing and homeland security and defense technology.

The fund's independent panel of experts is currently reviewing applications from entrepreneurs who need the start up cash to get their products off the ground to expand and grow and hire people in Michigan.

And we've had an enormous response from businesses that are interested in growing their business and expanding in Michigan in key sectors. Sectors that will keep jobs here; sectors that won't be outsourced to other countries.

I'll be making an announcement in the coming days about the exact number of businesses that have submitted applications, and the next steps in the decision making process.

From the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund to our pursuit of employers in other states and other continents, we have an aggressive, comprehensive plan to grow our economy in Michigan. And as Governor, there's nothing I won't do – and no distance I won't travel – to bring new jobs to our great state. Thank you for listening.